STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

MAIN PHONE: 602-542-4331
FACSIMILE: 602-542-7601

May 16, 2007

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Senate Office Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1629: misconduct involving weapons; classification

Dear President Bee:

Today, at the request of Arizona law enforcement, I vetoed Senate Bill 1629, which would have reduced the penalty for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit from a class one misdemeanor to a petty offense and exempted such illegally carried weapons from forfeiture.

As I indicated in my April 27, 2007 letter regarding Senate Bill 1301, lawful gun owners who wish to carry concealed weapons should comply with A.R.S. § 13-3112 and get the required permit. People who fail to do so are, by definition, lawbreakers in possession of deadly weapons; and our law enforcement officers must have an array of enforcement options to use against these violators. For example, serious criminals, especially gang members, often carry concealed weapons without permits. Without tough penalties (including the ability to affect arrests) against people who carry weapons unlawfully, Arizona's law enforcement would be deprived of a valuable tool. Such penalties both ensure that our current laws are obeyed and help keep our citizens and law enforcement officers safe. Relaxing them is not in the best interest of Arizona.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1629.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor

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cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Karen Johnson